

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method comprising:
receiving a first sequence of values and a second sequence of values, wherein:
each value of the first sequence and each value of the second sequence
is associated with a category and a magnitude, and
in the order of values of both the first sequence of values and the second
sequence of values, no adjacent values have the same category.
2. The method of claim 1, comprising comparing a value of the first sequence with a value
of the second sequence if the value of the first sequence and the value of the second sequence
are associated with the same category and same magnitude.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the magnitude is a threshold.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the category is a bin.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein each value of a sequence of values is a bit.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first sequence of values and the
second sequence of value is data from a histogram.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the histogram is a color histogram.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein in the order of values of both the first sequence of values and the second sequence of values, values associated with the same magnitude are grouped together in groups.
9. The method of claim 8, wherein the order of the groups is according to resolution of information of each value of each group.
10. The method of claim 1, wherein in the order of values of both the first sequence of values and the second sequence of values, each value is associated with a resolution equal to or higher than the preceding value.
11. An apparatus configured to:
receive a first sequence of values and a second sequence of values, wherein:
each value of the first sequence and each value of the second sequence
is associated with a category and a magnitude, and
in the order of values of both the first sequence of values and the second
sequence of values, no adjacent values have the same category.

12. The apparatus of claim 11, configured to compare a value of the first sequence with a value of the second sequence if the value of the first sequence and the value of the second sequence are associated with the same category and same magnitude.
13. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the magnitude is a threshold.
14. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the category is a bin.
15. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein each value of a sequence of values is a bit.
16. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein at least one of the first sequence of values and the second sequence of value is data from a histogram.
17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the histogram is a histogram.
18. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein in the order of values of both the first sequence of values and the second sequence of values, values associated with the same magnitude are grouped together in groups.
19. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the order of the groups is according to resolution of information of each value of each group.

20. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein in the order of values of both the first sequence of values and the second sequence of values, each value is associated with a resolution equal to or higher than the preceding value.